



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2006

<p>STATEMENT BY MAYOR JERRY SANDERS</p>

**SANDERS “DISAPPOINTED” WITH APPEALS COURT RULING
ON STAY REGARDING MT. SOLEDAD WAR MEMORIAL**

MAYOR TO CONFER WITH CITY ATTORNEY ON LEGAL OPTIONS

I am on City business today in Sacramento meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger and other state legislative leaders. I was disappointed to learn that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit has denied the City’s motion to stay the District Court’s order. I clearly believe that the Mt. Soledad War Memorial is part of our history as a City; it is part of our cultural fabric. The loss of the cross to the War Memorial would be tragic.

I have made clear that I intend to pursue all options to preserve the integrity of the Memorial, including conferring with members of our Congressional Delegation and the White House regarding this issue. I intend to continue doing so. However, I have no intention of violating Judge Thompson’s order if a resolution cannot be reached by August 1st. That order requires the City to take down the cross atop the Mt. Soledad War Memorial on August 1, 2006 or face fines of \$5,000 per day. Those fines would begin accruing on August 2, 2006. We are a society of laws and we must respect the integrity of a court’s decision.

Over the course of the next few days, I will confer with City Attorney Mike Aguirre on any and all legal options that still may be available to the City.

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